

## Message Text

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FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC INFO GENEVA USUN NEW YORK  
CANBERRA FROM PARIS 23 JUL 74:

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SUBJECT: FRENCH CANDIDATE FOR UN UNDER-SECRETARY  
GENERAL POSITION FOR ECOSOC

1. SUMMARY. PHILIPPE BLAMONT OF ILO CENTER IN TURIN  
INFORMED LABATT THAT HE IS A CANDIDATE FOR POSITION  
OF UN UNDERSECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL  
AFFAIRS BUT HE DOES NOT HAVE YET OFFICIAL GOT  
ENDORSEMENT. HE CLAIMED THAT THREE CANDIDATES  
PROPOSED BY QUAI HAVE BEEN REJECTED BY UN SYG AFTER  
INTERVIEW. HE ASKED THAT US OFFICIALS DEALING WITH  
ILO BE ADVISED OF FOREGOING.

2. PHILIPPE BLAMONT, DIRECTOR OF THE ILO (INTER-  
NATIONAL LABOR ORGANIZATION) CENTER IN TURIN, ITALY  
VOCATIONAL TRAINING) VISITED LABATT 19 JULY TO  
ADVISE HIM INFORMALLY OF HIS CANDIDACY FOR THE  
POSITION OF UN UNDERSECRETARY GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC  
AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS TO REPLACE PHILIPPE DESEYNES  
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SCHEDULED TO RETIRE AT YEAR'S END AFTER 18 YEARS

OF UN SERVICE. IN SUPPORT OF HIS CANDIDACY BLAMONT CITED HIS 4 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE WITH THE UN WHEN HE WAS ASSIGNED AS MEMBER OF THE FRENCH DELEGATION TO THE UN IN NEW YORK, HIS 8 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN TURIN AND HIS FLUENT ENGLISH.

3. HE SAID THAT HE HAS THE SUPPORT OF ALEXANDER PARODI, FRENCH DELEGATE TO THE ILO, WHO WROTE TO FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES TO URGE THAT BLAMONT BE PRESENTED AS THE OFFICIAL FRENCH CANDIDATE FOR THE UN POSITION WHICH PARENTHETICALLY, BLAMONT SAID, HAS BEEN TREATED UNTIL NOW AS "A FRENCH POSITION" SAUVAGNARGUES' 430)6 8 3 03:8-)6 43;3-)8,& 9\* 9,3 9\* 5#3 :9, 8\$34-589, 2#8:# 238&# #3-;8)6 8, 5#3 3)3:589, 9\* \*43,;# 9\*\*8:8-) 59 8,534,-589,-) 09 8589, . IN HIS LETTER WHICH LABATT READ SAUVAGNARGUES THANKS PARODI FOR HIS INITIATIVE AND GOES ON TO SAY THAT UNFORTUNATELY "THE PERSONNEL SITUATION IN THE QUAI IS SO DRAMATIC AS TO REQUIRE HIM TO SELECT IN PRINCIPLE SOMEONE FROM THE FOREIGN OFFICE". ACCORDING TO BLAMONT PARODI RELIED ON THE USE OF THE WORDS "IN PRINCIPLE" TO INTERPRET THE LETTER AS NOT TOO DISCOURAGING.

4. BLAMONT SAID IN THIS CONNECTION THAT JOBERT HAD ALREADY PROPOSED THREE CANDIDATES TO UN SYG WALDHEIM, NAMELY PIERRE SOUDET, CONSEILLER D'ETAT, AND CLOSE FRIEND OF SOCIALIST PARTY LEADER FRANCOIS MITTERRAND, GABRIEL VAN LAETHEM, PRESENTLY FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO AUSTRALIA WHO, ACCORDING TO BLAMONT, IS THE REAL CANDIDATE OF THE QUAI AND ROGER GORCE, DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN TRADE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY. GLAMONT CONTENTS THAT ALL THREE GENTLEMEN HAVE BEEN INTERVIEWED BY WALDHEIM AND REJECTED. HE WAS THEREFORE SURPRISED TO LEARN THAT SAUVAGNARGUES HAD RECONFIRMED THE THREE-MAN FRENCH LIST OF CANDIDATES AND WONDERED IF THAT WAS SAUVAGNARGUES' WAY OF SHOWING CONTINUITY FROM JOBERT'S PERIOD AND AT THE SAME TIME DEMONSTRATING TO THE QUAI THAT HE IS DOING AS MUCH FOR HIS STAFF AS HIS PREDECESSOR.

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5. BLAMOND ADDED THAT PETTERSON OF THE UNDP HAD TRIED TO INTEREST OTHER PROMINENT FRENCHMEN IN THE JOB BUT WITHOUT SUCCESS. HE MENTIONED RAYMOND BARRE, FORMERLY WITH EC COMMISSION AND NOW PROFESSOR, AND JACQUES DELORS, FORMERLY COUNSELLOR TO PRIME MINISTER CHABAN DELMAS (1969-1972), AS TWO WHO TURNED DOWN THE JOB.

6. BLAMONT ADDED THAT THE POSSIBILITY EXISTS THAT WALDHEIM MAY DECIDE TO GIVE THE POSITION TO JAPAN OR THE FRG, BOTH OF WHICH SEEM TO BE UNDERREPRESENTED IN THE UN HIGHER ECHELONS. HE INTENDS NEVERTHELESS TO CONTINUE HIS CAMPAIGN WITHIN THE GOF TO BE RECOGNIZED AS OFFICIAL FRENCH NOMINEE AND IS COUNTING FOR THIS ON HIS RELATIONS WITH OFFICIALS IN THE ELYSEE. HE PLANS ALSO TO VISIT NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER AT THE OPENING OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

7. BLAMONT CLAIMED THAT LABATT WAS THE FIRST NON-FRENCH OFFICIAL WITH WHOM HE HAS SPOKEN INFORMALLY OF HIS CANDIDACY AND ASKED IF HE CTULD SO INFORM US OFFICIALS DEALING WITH ILO. IRWIN UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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